Guide to the use of the SH5 Tehuelche file

/ 1:Cooper is the basic summary article on this group, and covers all of the existing literature up to 1945. This article includes material which helps to place the Tehuelche in a regional and linguistic context.

The bulk of the file is composed of first-hand observations by individuals who traveled through the region, giving data on the tribe before much acculturation (excepting the introduction of the horse) had taken place. The earliest source, 6: De Viedma, is short but gives data gathered in the late eighteenth century. 2:Musters and 3:Musters contain the most information, and form the foundation of the file. The author of these pieces traveled through the area about ninety years after De Viedma. 5:Bourne contains data from about seventy years after De Viedma, and is based on observations made during a period of 97 days during which the author was held captive by the Tehuelche. The observations are not as good as those of Musters, but are still useful.

The final article, 4:Lothrop, deals with Tehuelche material culture.

The file as a whole is good on material culture, economics, political organization, and the life cycle, but reflects the gaps in the literature in that it is rather weak in the areas of religion and kinship. /

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